

Interview Transcript

Project: Mount Saint Mary's University--CSJ Oral History Project

Interview Date: 01/21/2020

Interviewee: Sister Joan Marie Hagen

Interviewer: Shannon Green, Director, CSJ Institute, Mount Saint Mary's University; Roman Zenz, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University; Mary Trunk, Instructor, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University

Location: Carondelet Center, Los Angeles, California.

Transcription Date: 02/25/2020

Transcribed By: Nancy Steinmann

[00:00:00.00] [Director's comments].

[00:00:13.24] MARY TRUNK: CSJ Oral History Project, Sister Joan Marie Hagen, January 21, 2020, first interview.

[00:00:29.25] SHANNON GREEN: Sister Joan, would you get us started by just telling us a little bit about your--oh, excuse me. First of all, would you state your full name and your age?

[00:00:41.00] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: Sister Joan Marie Hagen. I was 85 this past August.

[00:00:47.27] SHANNON GREEN: 85. Sister Joan, would you tell us a little bit about, just your background, where you were born, where you grew up, and a little bit about your family?

[00:00:56.15] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: I was born in Seattle, Washington. I was the oldest of two children, younger brother--five years younger. And later on when I was in 7th grade, stillborn baby was delivered. Seattle was a place of many fond memories: the waterfalls, the rivers, the streams, the snow on Mount Rainier. Those were beautiful memories that I have, and not many photographs of it in my mind. I have all of these. I went to Catholic education--that was very important for my parents. First grade as my mom says, she wonders now--she wondered when years later, how she managed to let me go--two busses with older children that I thought were "big kids", but they were probably eighth graders at the time. And then--that was Blessed Sacrament--then St. Katherine's into the fourth grade, when we came to Southern California. We came to Southern California--we drove down--and we came because of my mother's health. The Scotch broom which blooms seasonally caught up with her asthma, and she was very, very ill with this. Southern California was really home. My mom and dad were married in St. Monica's Church. Many of my family lived in Santa Monica at the time. So, I was really getting reacquainted with cousins that I just barely knew. Then I--in Seattle, as I say--these memories came. I had Catholic education at St. Mary's Academy all four years, and then my alma mater--I too am a "Mountie"--Mount St. Mary's College. And many of my classmates also went to the Mount and some of them are still with me today as Sisters of St. Joseph.

[00:03:02.15] SHANNON GREEN: Could you tell me a little bit about what your parents did for a living and how religious or how your Catholicism--other than your education--was a part of your life?

[00:03:11.10] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: My dad was in Sales--in paint sales, manufacturing in Seattle. He was manager of all of the Northwest states--Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon--with headquarters here. My mom was a stay-at-home mom. When I was first born, she was very lonesome for her family. She'd never been away from her family here in Santa Monica area. Across the way--across the hall from the little apartment they lived in--was a retired librarian. Since I was away from my own grandmothers--both grandfathers had died previous to my mom and dad's marriage--I called this woman "grandma". And she, along with my parents, instilled in me the love of books. From my first birthday to my first Christmas, she inscribed books of quality--Robert Louis Stevenson's "Child's Garden of Verse", among others. Books, love of learning--my mom did work--not when we were young, but later on she worked as County Assessor. She was up in years. She took her qualifying exam at age 62, and passed more than some of the younger people just getting started in the business world.

[00:04:38.06] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: So, my dad retired at age 62, and my mom could have gone on,

but she acquiesced to my dad, as she always did, and they retired to the high desert of Yucca Valley. They had a nice little house up there. My mom appreciated being near the church. My dad appreciated the golf course. They met friends up there, and it was a good place to go. Vacations I would often go up there. My dad died two days short of his ninety-seventh birthday. My mom knew she couldn't stay in Yucca Valley, so plans were arranged for her to go to Nazareth House here in Los Angeles. When she was first there, she called herself what other people named her: "the Non-Resident Resident". She was away so much of the time. She'd spent weekends with us at Visitation Convent. She and I could fly or take a train up to Watsonville to visit my brother and sister-in-law. And then, God left her--God gave her life for 104 years--104 she lived. People say I have longevity. Well, each year keeps us moving along somehow. My brother and sister-in-law--wonderful couple. I remember when I was at St. Anselm's--we no longer have that school, but we did--it opened up in the early Sixties. The night that Bud and Lois--his name is Norm, named after my dad--Donald Norman Hagen. My mom's name was Irene. When I first was at community, I was Sister Irene Anne, but then later on when we could change names, I went to my baptismal name. The night that Bud gave Lois the engagement ring, they came by St. Anselm's. They were so happy they wanted to share that with me. And I remember Sister Barbara Cotton (1927-2007), formerly Sister St. Thomas [Cotton] was there. He knew them. My brother went on to--well, he had--graduated from Loyola--when it was Loyola, he says proudly with a smile on his face. And I said, "Yes, and how did you meet your wife?" Because he always kind of prided himself on being there when the men were there before the women came on board. And I said, "How did you meet your wife." "At an Immaculate Heart/Loyola social." Lois and Bud have three sons--very fine young men. Since the housing and fall of the crunch--financial crunch of the 1908 [2008??], lot of those--two of those nephews are on the East Coast, and I miss not seeing them and their children--the great-grands in particular--two dear little boys. That's kind of an overview of family.

[00:07:42.18] SHANNON GREEN: Thank you. Tell me when you first met the Sisters of St. Joseph?

[00:07:46.17] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: I first met the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet [CSJs] when I attended St. Mary's Academy. I had had Holy Names and Providence prior to those years. I met the Sisters in my classes. One--Sister Josephine [Mother Josephine Feeley (1905-1991)] was the Principal at the time. One teacher that stands out among the others is Sister Davida Joseph Conlan. Later she dropped the Joseph and Davida [new name?]. She taught me junior and senior English. She was wonderful. She challenged us. One time she challenged us to memories Francis Thompson's "Hound of Heaven" [Francis Thompson (1859-1907), English poet]. If you know that in a text book it goes on for about five or six pages--small print. I memorized that. And I remember the afternoon when I went to her and said, "I think I'm ready to recite that." She developed in me my love for good literature, quality literature, and creative writing. Creative writing has become a part of my life, so much so that I even have a collection of my poetry.

[00:09:09.13] [Director's comments].

[00:09:15.02] SHANNON GREEN: Right now I want to stay with your own calling. So, when did you--was there a point in--earlier in your life, or when did you first think about becoming a Sister?

[00:09:25.21] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: When did I first think about becoming a Sister? Let me go back to my first Communion day in Seattle, Washington--St. Catherine's parish. The pastor was a friend of everybody, the oldest grandmother or grandfather down to the newest first grader--we didn't have kindergarten then. When I made my first Communion, I remember walking down the aisle with my little plastic-covered prayer book and rosary in my hand, approaching the altar--and at Communion I remember saying, "Dear Jesus, I want to live my life for you." I was seven years old. Later, when I was a freshman at St. Mary's, we had the first of our annual retreats. I don't remember the retreat director's name, but I do remember thinking, "Oh, maybe I want to be a Sister." My childhood years I was always going to be a nurse. I remember the Christmas I got my little cardboard nurse's kit with the red cross on it. I carried that around--its contents included a plastic stethoscope, some bandages, some gauze, cotton, and a plastic thermometer. I was going to be a nurse. However, that retreat put another thought in my head. And it stayed with me. I never spoke about it to my parents or anyone--I kept it to myself. My junior year, I was still pretty sure what I wanted, but at that time the pastor from Seattle came down to visit. And I had a few quiet moments with him alone. And I remember saying, "Father, do you think--I'm thinking that maybe I want to be a Sister." He knew my family, he knew my background, he supported me in that. I didn't tell any of my parents or my friends. My senior year--or between my junior and senior year, I even applied to the Mount for the Nursing

program, but I didn't say anything to anybody. My mom and dad knew that. But as to being the calling--in my senior year, I knew that I wanted to enter. But I wanted to wait to tell my family until after Christmas, because I knew Christmas would not be a happy occasion. These same years, often after school when I came home from St. Mary's Academy from Slauson and Crenshaw to our house in Hawthorne, my mom and I would sit at the dining room table and have a little afternoon tea and just chat. And I guess one day I just felt it was time to tell her. The native Irish came through, the tears came, mine came--I'm Irish through and through, although I'm Holland Dutch/Norwegian also. So, I didn't say anything--we just--well, I shouldn't say that--but we talked a little bit about it. "Well, why? How come? Are you sure?" I said, "Yes, but don't say anything to Daddy yet--don't say anything." That night at dinner, we're sitting at our dining room table, my mom and dad, younger brother--my mom started to cry. My dad said, "Irene, what's the matter? Are you sick? Something wrong with Joanie? What's the matter?" Then I had to tell him. It was hard for them. Years later, I realized how very hard it was. My mom would talk to Mother Rosemary [Mother Rosemary Lyons (1893-1971)??], who was the Provincial at the time, and she said, "My only daughter." And Mother Rosemary said, "But just think--all the daughters that you have acquired." It was hard for my mom and dad. I had an aunt that said, "I will do anything, I'll provide a trip to Europe for you if you stay home and don't enter the convent." I said, "No, Aunt Dot, I know what I want to do." Those were the beginnings. During those high school years I made visits to the chapel. I would see the Sisters, in full habit in those days. I sensed a serenity, a peacefulness, a true holiness about them. Sisters that I had at St. Mary's were good people.

[00:13:59.29] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: Some funny stories I could narrate later. Sister Augustin [??]--we--I took four years of Latin--I took four years, because if we took three years of Latin we didn't have to take another foreign language. However, I was happy to be a member of the Latin club "Virgilians"--we'd wear the toga and think we were really classy. Sister Augustin had a lot of extra-curricular activities to do. She would frequently be called out of the classroom. We are juniors and seniors. She would say, "Now girls, I want you to look over the next section and be ready to comment on that on my return." We were juniors and seniors. Do you think we looked at the next section? No, we had little chats with one another until she returned. [laughs]. These were good women. They were holy women. They were true to their calling. Mother Josephine, Sister Josephine--she was Provincial in later years--she was good. She knew my family. Sister Davida Joseph [Conlan] became close friends with my parents, in particular after I entered. It was Sister Davida who dressed me as a--in the postulant garb, or the habit when we moved into the habit. My--Sisters were not driving in those days. So, Davida--or my mom and dad would drive Sister Davida out to North--out to Riverside to visit with her family. They were close friends. And my mom and dad could talk to Davida about missing me.

[00:15:44.17] SHANNON GREEN: What do you remember from the early days after you entered, as a postulant, as a novice, your early community days and formation days?

[00:15:54.26] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: As postulants, and through our novitiate, a number of my classmates from St. Mary's Academy were with me. It was different. The first morning at breakfast I thought, "Oh my gosh, what is this all about?" My mom liked nice things. The first morning at breakfast, we were seated in silence at these long tables--we were 44 or 45 when we entered. The next morning, one person left--she knew this wasn't her calling after 24 hours. [laughs]. I'm sitting there, in silence, plate in front of me, silverware, cup. To this day, I remember the brown crack in that cup. That wasn't what I was used to. Coffee? I didn't drink coffee at home--it was cocoa or milk or juice. And tea. Well, those early days were learning lessons. This is what it's about. The phrase that often came to--in use was "offer it up". Well, we did, because that's what it was about. We had fun times too. There were occasions where we could be outside and just be like usual girls. I was never into sports, besides roller-skating and jacks, jump rope--those were my sports. [laughs]. But I enjoy sports to this day.

[00:17:32.08] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: After postulancy, we received the habit, after six months. Sister Davida changed me. At the beginning of that ceremony we walked down the chapel aisle wearing white veils and white dresses, as brides. We were not human brides marrying another man. We were marrying the Divine, the Holy One, Jesus, God. Many family members were there for that day. At--the novitiate was two years--continued steady--we continued our classes and our studies. We got our degrees--long time, but we did get our degrees, teaching credentials. The novitiate brought a lot of in-depth knowledge, history of congregation--who our Sisters were, what they did, the spirituality. Spirituality was very much--I'd almost

say a [makes air quotes] "Jesus and I". We were taught meditation, but it was so formal. It was very formal--very much within. We read holy books--we weren't--we had a library across from our novitiate where we had over a hundred young girls. There were books in the library that we could read and I can still see the shelf that we were discouraged from reading. But I was called to those--Elizabeth of the Trinity [Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity, O.C.D., born Élisabeth Catez (1880-1906), French Discalced Carmelite author and mystic], Julian of Norwich [Dame or Mother Julian (1342-after 1416), English anchorite and author of "Revelations of Divine Love"]. I had read Thérèse of Lisieux's [Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, born Marie Françoise-Thérèse Martin (1873-1897), French Catholic Discalced Carmelite nun] biography in high school--it was a gift from my dear grandmother--my mom's mom--my "Nana". I remember just being in my bedroom at home and just in tears over that book, I related to it so much. She was young, but she was called to religious life. However, I have lived far beyond 24 years, as she did. [laughs]. That's not funny, but I have a little joke about that. I was drawn to those persons. We had retreats in the novitiate, and I remember they were so formal. It was on sin, and mortification, and denial of self, and exactitude and it was just so formal and strict and--not strict in the sense of a parent being strict with a child, but it was kind of missing life. Later in Vatican II [Second Vatican Council (1962-1965)], which maybe we'll talk--

[00:20:25.27] SHANNON GREEN: Yeah, we'll--

[00:20:27.17] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: --Vatican II opened doors and windows.

[00:20:32.03] SHANNON GREEN: We will get to that. But I want to hear--so what happened to becoming a nurse? You became a teacher, not a nurse?

[00:20:38.04] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: Comes time now, after novitiate, and I wasn't asked if I wanted to be a nurse or what I wanted to do--just automatically into Education. We had had some good Education classes. I remember Sister Margaret Clare [Sister Margaret Clare Borchard, (1911-2001)], Early Childhood Education, which took in the books that I was so fond of and loved. She brought Leo Politi [Atiglio Leoni Politi (1908-1996), American artist and children's book author] in as guest, and I can still see the illustrations in his books. The--

[00:21:18.08] SHANNON GREEN: --Education--your Education degree--and becoming a teacher.

[00:21:21.17] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: I had had background in school and community. Our Sister Regina Clare Salazar taught that. And I don't recall being asked what I wanted to do. So, I was just put into--my classes geared into Education. And that was all right with me--that was all right. Because years later, I would find myself a Chaplain in a hospital. I taught school for 26 years, up and down the coast, from Pasco, Washington to San Diego [California]. They were good teaching years. I especially was fond of what I called my "little people"--the first-graders. They were very dear and very close to me.

[00:22:16.22] SHANNON GREEN: Is there anything else you want to share about your teaching part of your ministry, or after that we can move into how your vocation changed, or your ministry--

[00:22:26.02] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: Teaching ministry was very good. I started out with 55 children--me, myself and I, first year of teaching at St. John Chrysostom [Los Angeles]--we know where that is--over on Florence in Inglewood. No teacher aide in those days--very little teaching guides and apparatus like we have nowadays like with all of our modern inventions. We had an overhead projector and that was it. During my later years of teaching in Pasco and San Diego, I became Eucharistic Minister, which was an outgrowth of Vatican II. Eucharistic Minister meant I could take Communion to home-bound people, those who for health reasons were not able to attend. In Pasco, I went to a nursing facility to visit the parishioners. In San Diego, I went to both a nursing facility and to individual homes, to take Communion to people.

[00:23:32.25] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: And during those last few years, especially in San Diego, I thought, I don't want to spend the rest of my life teaching. I don't want to just be a teacher--I wanted to do something else, beyond using chalkboard and using overhead projector. So, the thought came to me, I think I might like to go into what was known as "pastoral care", which was care of sick people. I thought I would work in parishes, because I'd been affiliated with parishes, and very active in choirs and et ceteras in parish. So, in San Diego, I--toward the end of my time there, with community support and everything, I applied for

what was called--and is still today--clinical pastoral education, a year's study and preparation. I had hoped to go to St. Joseph Center in Orange, because I'd still be near my family. However, that didn't materialize. Instead I was at Good Samaritan Hospital in Tucson. It was a group of seven people, myself and two others who happened to be Catholic women, and the rest various denominations--rabbi, minister--or I should say rabbi, Protestant ministers, and a woman who was studying to become a rabbi. We were under the tutelage of Reverend Roger Johnson. That was a great experience--self-revelation, a lot of depth, et cetera. I'm still thinking I'm going to be in a parish. Sister Teresa Marie McIntier was kind of a mentor for me then. During that year, I stayed with her and two Sisters of two other communities at a convent in Phoenix. So, Teresa was wonderful and she was recognized throughout the state and the country for her ministry and work with death and dying--people near the end of their lives. She was great, great asset as well as the formal ICPE [??]. So, I finished my CPE [Clinical pastoral education]. I'm now going to need to be doing [makes air quotes] "a ministry", and I'm thinking parish.

[00:26:09.21] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: However, it turned out that I was assigned to Daniel Freeman Marina Hospital in Marina Del Rey [California]--the Chaplaincy. That was all right. I had visited patients at "Good Sam"--Good Samaritan--that was all right. Another Sister also worked there, so she and I could transfer together--Sister Elaine [Stevens (-2008)??]. So, it turned out that I began my years as Chaplaincy at Daniel Freeman Marina Hospital. I had taught school for 26 years. Then, believe it or not, I was Chaplain for another 26 years. Many things took place.

[00:26:55.04] SHANNON GREEN: So, I want to--we're going to come back to this point. But I want to hear--can we go back to--Vatican II is what makes this possible in some ways, right?

[00:27:04.10] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: Oh, definitely.

[00:27:05.16] SHANNON GREEN: Yeah, so will you talk about--so you're a teacher, you're living in what we would now--a pre-Vatican II community. When Vatican II is unfolding, how aware were you, how engaged were you? At what point did Vatican II start to come into your awareness and then you can share how that impacted you.

[00:27:26.27] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: Vatican II, 1960s. One of the first changes of Vatican II was the priest was no longer celebrating liturgy--celebrating Mass--because it was known as Mass in those days--with his back to the congregation. Thankfully, he knew was before his people, standing in front--we could see him. He was now speaking not in Latin but in English--we understood what was being said. Religious orders were asked to go back to the beginnings of their foundation. We had heard of beginnings in our studies--Le Puy, France, Revolution, our Sisters in prison, some of our Sisters became martyrs--but it was more than that. It was in depth study. It was making Le Puy not just a place on a map but something real. We Sisters had workshops based upon Vatican II. We learned more about the spirit rather than this God of pre-Vatican days that was more of a patriarch or somebody "up there". This was a God who loved us. And all my life, love has been a guiding force. God is Love has always been a mantra of mine. Vatican II--had our community prayers in English. They made much more sense to us. In our early days, we would be awakened by the clang of a bell--in our novitiate years--at five o'clock, be in the chapel by 5:20. We had prayers. Being young girls still in our teens, we'd fall asleep, sometimes. The prayers were in Latin. Mass was in Latin. Vatican II brought it all in English, our native tongue. It was meaningful to us. And in going back to our roots, talk began about--within a few years after that--of being--no longer wearing our habit, but wearing the dress of the people. Our habit was the dress of the people in 1600 France. It was the dress of the widows. And it continued all this time. So, gradually, prayers were in English, we'd dress as the women of the twentieth century, as I speak for now in the twenty-first century. But we could. I'll speak a little bit more about that, but I want to go back to the spiritual dimensions.

[00:30:33.27] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: It was broader. It was open. We had theologians who were speaking to our hearts. I made some wonderful retreats. And God became alive. Jesus became not just a man who walked Galilee's hills, but it was Jesus who became a part of our lives. Meditation moved beyond listening to words--it became an interior part of who we were. What I'm saying now spans not just in the 1960s but up to the present. Daily quiet time. I call it my "quiet time". Special time. Reading, yes--reading spiritual books. The liturgy of the day. Attending liturgies--and even that, the Mass is the Mass, yes, but it's become a liturgy. It's the people being a part of it. It's no longer the priest--the [makes air quotes] "male"

figure. But it's us--men and women, children of today, participating. I sang in choir since I was in the fourth grade. So, it was just natural, all of this--the meditations. And who were some of the people that influenced me? Again Thérèse of Lisieux--Thérèse herself, Mother St. John [Jeanne Fontbonne, (1759-1843)], our founders. Father Medaille [Father Jean-Pierre Médaille [(1610-1669), Jesuit priest, sponsor of CSJs]. I remember being fortunate in the late 19--1986, taking a chaplain's workshop in St. Louis [Missouri]. And that happened to be the 150th anniversary of our founding. I remember walking the streets of St. Louis after the conference. The Sisters of St. Joseph had mounted banners in downtown St. Louis, featuring us, Sisters--because that became our headquarters--St. Louis--Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, 150 years. With pride I walked those streets, thinking this is where it began. I saw the Mother House. This is where it began. I stood in the courtyard of the Mother House and looked across the river to Cahokia [Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, pre-Colombian Native American city]--old, old place no longer in existence, but I was there--I saw the church. I took photos of the old church. I took photos of the famous clock in the quad at St. Louis. I saw my name in the directory of all the Sisters of St. Joseph that have ever been. I saw my name there. And even as I say these words, I think, "I am a part of a great heritage". And this heritage is going on.

[00:33:42.28] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: While at the hospital, we had ups and downs, especially toward the end of my 26 years when financial both Daniel Freeman Memorial and Daniel Freeman were closing. I will get back to that closing. However, I want to say something that is unique in my "CSJ-ness". When we were novices, second year novices, two-year period, we did the final cleaning of the patient rooms before Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital opened. Our group did that in 1954, I think it was. I had my life, which I've been telling you. And my final ministry was the end of my 26 years at Daniel Freeman Marina. It had taken different names under the different ownership, but the CSJs were still there in my behalf--with my presence. I was the last Sister of St. Joseph to be full-time--I was Manager of the Pastoral Care department. I was the last to have any connection with the Freeman hospitals. From novitiate days through all those years, the last. And as I mention Daniel Freeman, I do want to mention Sister Regina Clare Salazar. She was truly mentor to me in those days. So, a broad history of the hospitals.

[00:35:31.26] SHANNON GREEN: Are there any stories about your time at Daniel Freeman, or story of your time with Regina Clare that you could share with us?

[00:35:39.25] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: Yes, one of the stories--and I wish I had a photo of it--early on, when I was young and agile and wasn't roaming around with a cane like I am now as of two months ago--there was a jog-a-thon. There was a running track around Daniel Freeman, and yours truly was dressed in her sweats and running around this jogging. That was a fun event. We would celebrate St. Joseph's Day at both hospitals, and that was special. Sister Regina Clare--to this day, which is so encouraging--especially when I became the Manager of Daniel Freeman Marina Hospital--all the time that I was at the Marina, I was engaged not just with patients, but with the medical staff--with the Emergency room, with the Intensive Care. It was a combination of coronary care and general Intensive Care. The first day I went there I was nervous. I remember going to the pharmacy, going to all of the--introducing myself. It got to the point then where I was active with the medical staff. I would give the opening prayer. I became part of the Mission and Philosophy department, which was headed by Sister Regina Clare. Those days were special. When it came time for retiring, the staff and doctors, everyone, gave me a grand sendoff. And when I was--it was up in the Boardroom--when I was down just visiting the patients, or visiting different nursing stations, they would repeatedly say to me, "What are we going to do when you're gone? How are we going to manage when you're gone?" Because they would call me for personal matters, for serious matters, for when some family was wanting to be in Intensive Care with their dear ones but couldn't be. I said, "You know what's within your hearts. You know our CSJ, our Sisters spirit. You live that spirit within your heart. Sure, I know there's going to be challenges. What you're saying may not always in practice--it may not be accepted, but continue to keep the spirit of loving God, loving neighbor, among yourselves." Frequently I'm back there now for my own medical purposes. And everybody--"Sister, Sister, Sister". And Sister Therese Denham is often with me. "Sister, Sister". Then I said to one just recently--last August the hospital itself celebrated 50 years, and I saw some of the--well, [makes air quotes] "old timers"--and I say--one I said, "Kathy, how long have you been there in Central Supply?" "Thirty-five years." And I said, "You must have come just out of high school." Those were special years, and I know our Sisters' presence at both hospitals meant a lot to the people. Sister Regina Clare continues to be in touch. I'm in touch. And no doubt, other Sisters are too. Many of them have gone to Heaven, but I'm grateful for each day of my life, which I try to live the spirit of the Sisters.

[00:39:13.02] SHANNON GREEN: Can you say a little bit about--just in your ministry--what it was like for you to accompany people in illness? This was not the ministry you expected, you know, to be in. What was that like for you personally to be present when people are in the hospital?

[00:39:29.28] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: To be present to people in the hospital--I suppose I could sum it up by saying, I was the one visiting, but they were a gift to me. To see these people who would tell me their stories--and of course what I was--in my CPE training program, I learned about dialogue. I learned about what to ask. And to be with people. Nothing I was going to say was going to change their health. Nothing I was going to say would prevent, you know, their serious illness from not continuing. But they could speak to me--they could tell me. I learned about their lives. I would learn about what was meaningful for them in life. I would learn how they were experiencing this illness--what it was like to be away from loved ones--maybe to know that their future was curtailed, whatever they were. Sometimes it was a young person who died. There were accidents. I was in the--Emergency Room. A woman--a man had been out playing golf--he had an attack--a fatal attack. They called the wife. They called me. I would just be sometimes with these people, just to be.

[00:41:06.09] SHANNON GREEN: Thank you. Can we go back to Vatican II for--there was one piece of it, and if you don't--I just want to ask--we're trying to get a little more about how community life changed, and also maybe governance changed--just your experience of those two parts of Vatican II.

[00:41:23.10] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: Vatican II. Governance. We had Superiors. The Superiors--I won't say they controlled our life, but pretty much if we wanted to do things, if we wanted to go shopping or do something like that, it was with the Superiors. Even at St. Anselm's we--I remember going out to go grocery shopping--was a treat--we can do that--with somebody else with us. Vatican II--ask the questions again--

[00:42:02.08] SHANNON GREEN: Yes, just how that changed--how did Vatican II impact daily community life, and then sort of implicit in that is the governance structure--authority.

[00:42:10.06] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: Yeah. Governance. Prior to Vatican II we had Superiors in every House. We asked a lot of permissions to do things. We had our Superior and we had Provincial leadership. Vatican II changed the local community as well as the larger community. It changed in that we had what we called "group governance" sometimes. The Superior of the House wasn't just making decisions--it was we Sisters that were a part of making decisions. We'd plan Feast Day celebrations, birthday celebrations, outings. Governance--provincially--province-wise I should say--we formed interest groups to further our charism of loving God, loving neighbor. I remember being in this chapel here at Carondelet Center, when we formed what we called "clusters". Various topics of interest had arisen from the body that was present, from justice issues to the poor, to climate--well, no--environment, the world, care of the Earth, the sick, the homebound, refugees--certainly we were ahead of ourselves looking at today. And I remember going--and we'd go stand at different stations in the chapel. I remember going to stand with people that were concerned about the Earth. We called ourselves "The Earthlings". We focused on care of the Earth--now this was in the 60s and the 70s. And today, one of our major focuses is the environment, the charism, the care of the Earth, which is still dear to me. Back to the local House--we could make decisions. We were free to do things that we wanted to.

[00:44:38.23] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: We changed into the dress of the people, because that's what we had done initially. I was living in Lakeside, California, east of San Diego--there were four of us there. We had a large bolt of serge, which our habits were made of. We found a dressmaker in nearby La Mesa. She made black suits for us--jacket, skirt. We went shopping for outerwear, for different shoes--not black stockings anymore, but nylons. [laughs]. Those were some of the beginnings. In the beginning, everything was black. Then we could choose brown, grey or navy blue. Our dressmaker was delighted now that we could have something of other colors. We were one with the people to whom we were--with whom--to whom were ministering. I remember once when I was living in Fresno. I was going--I took Greyhound--good old Greyhound--from Fresno over to Salinas. My brother and sister-in-law were living in Watsonville. This was in the 1960s, maybe early--yes, I was still--70s--I was in Fresno at St. Anthony's. I was on the bus, and this woman next to me and I became involved in conversation. She had a lot of problems that she was just talking one woman to another woman. And sometimes we can speak freely to a total stranger. So, we're on

this bus trip of a couple hours or so, and she said was I married, you know, turning. No. I guess she said did I have children. No. Was I married. No. What did you do? Well, I was a teacher. And then she asked me some more questions--I guess, were you a teacher. No, I'm single. In fact, I'm a Catholic nun. She turns and looks at me. "You're a nun? You're a Catholic nun?", she says. And I said, "Yes." She said, "If I had known you were a nun I wouldn't have sat with you much less shared my life with you." And I think, I was there for that woman for a purpose. She didn't know. But for some reason I was there to help unburden this woman.

[00:47:15.02] SHANNON GREEN: That does seem to me a different way that Sisters of St. Joseph are--present in the world. It's--in that sort of unassuming--that you could almost be undercover like that. [all laugh].

[00:47:38.03] [Director's comments].

[00:47:46.14] SHANNON GREEN: Would you say a little more about--so, after Vatican II--and it seems like you were very much on board, you know, with the spirit of Vatican II and it changed the trajectory of your ministry--but it also changed religious life in terms of vocations, and institutions, and do you have reflections, as you've experienced that, in terms of--you've mentioned the spirit of the CSJs in people you've worked with--but what are your thoughts about the future of religious life, the state of religious life today?

[00:48:20.05] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: Religious life today is certainly different than when I entered the convent many years ago. Vatican II brought us out with people more. It brought us with the human dimension as well as the spiritual dimension. We became part of people's lives, and that is good. We are fewer in number. We ask ourselves as Sisters, what does our future hold? What is the congregation going to be like? We are--we have been in process to try to simplify our government. We have major decisions ahead of us in the next years, so--what can we do to simplify both our government, our lives? What can we do--and I even asked myself the question--what can we do to continue our spirit? We have Associates, laymen and women, married and single, who are living--they are educated to live our spirit, our charism, love of God, love of neighbor, reaching out to the needy, being Christ to others, keeping the spirit of prayer alive in their lives--instilling a love of prayer in their lives, as is in ours--Associates throughout the world really--very fine people. I wish there were more Associates. And it was our Sister Ilene Mitchell [aka Sister St. Gerard Mitchell] who really began that program here in our Western Province. We have Associates. And let me say we have people at our higher education, Mount Saint Mary's--College in my day, University--they finally got the University status in paper. We have people like our current Mount President, Anne McElaney-Johnson, who along with Shannon Green are doing wonderful things--wonderful--they are inculcating our spirits in the students who are tomorrow's hopes. They have been--Anne has been to Le Puy. I haven't, nor will I ever be able to go, physically. They have made the Trek [recreation of Trek of the Seven Sisters (1870)]--Shannon and Anne have made the Trek and taken Sisters and students on the Trek to Tucson, which was the foundation of our Western Province. These women have our spirit. The men on the faculty--there's a Campus Minister at our school in Long Beach [California]. Each year, he sends an order for CSJ pins to give to the Campus Ministers for their outstanding outreach, spirit of what the CSJs are all about. These people are living the spirit. It's my hope and prayer that these young men and women of tomorrow will remember their "CSJ-ness" and continue to live it. The Mount has annual Busy Person's Retreat. Those students come down here, or go to the Doheny campus. I've had the privilege of walking with some of these young women on two occasions. They are educated. They are alive. There is a spirit in them. They are another generation. I pray that all the Mount students who are being inculcated into who we are, through--as I mention again--Anne McElaney-Johnson and Shannon Green--they are learning our spirit, just as in the novitiate I learned the spirit of long ago. Hopefully, these young men and women--and I'm glad the Mount has men--will live what the spirit of Jesus is. Jesus gave his life simply by loving his Father, loving his companions, loving the poor, the outcast, the leper. If we can continue doing this in my lifetime, and if that spirit can remain, and in turn be carried on to other generations, hopefully Le Puy will continue in Los Angeles, New York, and all places where we are--and where we will be in the future.

[00:53:23.02] SHANNON GREEN: Thank you. Is there--would you have a word of advice for a Mount student who comes to you may be thinking about her future, or her leadership? What would you say to a young Mount student?

[00:53:36.02] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: What I would say to a young girl--three facets of life--the head,

the heart and the feet. I'm currently reading David Brooks [American journalist] of the Brooks and Shields interviews with Judy Woodruff on Friday evenings. He has a book entitled "The Second Mountain". Some of you may be familiar with it. The "first mountain" is people, for the most part, seeking money, advancement, higher level of whatever. "Second mountain" is finding oneself in peace, in knowing one's good qualities, et cetera. These young women are probably somewhere between the two. They're too young to be in the second mountain, although they are highly educated--there's more to that, but I highly recommend that book for the Mount students--my alma mater too. To young women I would say [unintelligible] the head. We have our ideas--our intellect is in the head--our learning is in the head. That's the top part--head. Heart--that's where our aspirations, our hopes, our dreams, our--yes, and our pain is in our heart. But that's the part that should really govern. Where do I feel? The mind tells us what we learn. It's our feelings or emotions--what do they--telling me about myself? None of us is perfect, but we try to do our best. The feet--we're so human. We're grounded to this Earth. Keep that in mind. We may have great ideas of grandeur--I want to do this, I want to do that--but keep your heart and mind with love. Keep your feet grounded. Some people want to do more than they are possibly capable of doing. They might need to be grounded. Come to know ourselves. Years ago, centuries ago, great philosophers said, "Know yourself". Two words.

[00:56:09.25] SHANNON GREEN: That's great thank you. I want to see--are there some of the items that you brought? Are there things that you wanted to share that I haven't asked you about that maybe some of those things can help you share some of that?

[00:56:31.00] [Director's comments]

[00:56:37.06] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: [Shows brochure with collage]. Some years ago--a couple years ago I made a retreat down here at Carondelet Center. We were asked to make a collage. This collage indicates what is dear to me. [Points at brochure] my Irish ancestry--and spirals are ongoing. My life is ongoing. I love Nature, Nature, Nature. I'm proud of my Irish heritage. I love to go--when I was able to--go camping, visiting--visiting Mammoth Lakes. The greenery--a green space is always meaningful to me. Blue skies, water. One of my favorite places is Lake Mary in Mammoth. Nowadays, the Holy Names Retreat Center, Villa Maria Del Mar in Santa Cruz [California]. Children, families--that's important to me. Beauty, anywhere, is important.

[00:57:43.28] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: [Shows photos from St. Louis, Missouri]. Back to this 150th anniversary. Here's a photo of one of those banners. Here are the banners in the streets of St. Louis, moments of pride.

[00:57:56.25] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: [Shows photos] Signage from the old church in Cahokia.

[00:58:03.06] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: [Shows paper with photos]. I was at Daniel Freeman Hospital. We celebrated. Here's all the Sisters who were at Daniel Freeman at the time of that 150th anniversary, and the details of them. Here we are.

[00:58:23.27] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: [Shows newspaper clipping]. Some occasion I was at the Doheny campus with other Sisters. Somebody came by and took a photo at the Doheny campus, celebrating the 150th anniversary. [Reads caption] Present here was Jackie Doud [Jacqueline Powers Doud, first lay President of MSMC], President at the time, Sister Joseph Adele Edwards [(1933-2011)], faculty, now deceased, myself, Sister Therese Denham, who is here, and Sister Margaret [??]--I know her--she too is here.

[00:59:02.02] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: Retreats dear to my heart. Cahokia. [Shows booklet]. One could say that as an avocation my love for writing and literature. Some years ago, I helped and had a piece in this booklet. I was proud of that. My interpretation of Father Medaille.

[00:59:27.02] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: [Shows Designs magazine 2013 Spring]. "Designs"--for years I have done copy editing for "Designs".

[00:59:31.01] SHANNON GREEN: Could you say more about what "Designs" is?

[00:59:34.03] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: "Designs" is a booklet published periodically of what's happening in our community. This is an old copy from May of 2013--old--it spoke about our Sisters, our Mission, what we were doing. It would have the life, the necrology of Sisters who have lived before us. It would have current events. Upcoming--nowadays it's upcoming workshops and such. Photos of the Sisters, what's meaningful and important to them. I have--in my recent years, my classes from Sister Davida Joseph--have brought about continued interest in poetry and in writing. And I've had some poetry in "Designs".

[01:00:45.03] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: [Shows photo]. What have I done to continue to expand our heritage? I helped create an exhibit at our parish church for Vocation Week. So, here we are, the fleur-de-lis, the Sisters of St. Joseph.

[01:01:03.20] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: I mentioned poetry, because that has been a part of my life for years. Just this past month or so, thanks to designer and artist Sister Therese Denham, I have compiled a book of my poetry [shows book], "When Butterflies Sing". This is very meaningful to me.

[01:01:26.00] SHANNON GREEN: Would you choose one or two to read?

[01:01:30.08] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: My Mount years, when I was still studying, 1957, the Sister from the East Coast came out for Creative Writing. I wrote these two poems in 1957. At home, I still have the original paper that has the "A" on it. Allow me to share.

[Reads poem] "Mountaintop"

I stand eternal reigning in white splendor over glacier peak and pine,
My crown of mingling dew and dust is sign of peace, majestic,
My kingdom, tranquil valley, fingering evergreens, shadowed hills

[Reads poem] "Question"

Why are sands calm and free,
Slipping mantle-like over Earth's warm breast,
While I, ocean infinite, rage and hurl, seeking rest?

[01:02:42.26] SHANNON GREEN: Yes, something more contemporary?

[01:02:47.27] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN:

[Reads poem] "The Composer" 1918

Designs, rhythms, words gestate in the womb of the soul
Until the mind's pre-birth struggles burst into new life
The painting, the aria, the poem.

[Shows cover of book] When Butterflies Sing. All my life I have loved butterflies, and so, entitled When Butterflies Sing.

[Reads poem] "When Butterflies Sing"

When butterflies sing their notes soar with the wind, silently.
Only the poet, gifted to hear their lyrics may wing, one with the butterflies in creative flight.

[01:03:58.11] [Director's comments].

[01:04:23.00] SHANNON GREEN: What is the greatest technological advance you've witnessed in your life?

[01:04:29.15] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: The greatest--I think modern technology--iPads, cell phones, being able to connect with people across "the Pond" from here to Europe and beyond. The telecommunications that our Province can have with--it is Zoom--connecting with one Province to another--Peru, Japan, Hawaii, us here in the States. All those technological--that's one lump--technology.

[01:05:05.18] SHANNON GREEN: What about human progress? What is the greatest human advancement or

progress you feel you've witnessed in your life?

[01:05:12.04] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: That's much more difficult to answer. I think people realize that they are one of a multitude. Years ago, I think people all thought they were number one. Now we are family--family of God. And I'm saying that from the religious perspective, but we are. We are a part. We have our gifts, and we need to share our gifts. But it's not just "me, myself and I"--we are people of God. And that's an outcome of Vatican II--we are people of God. And Vatican II wasn't just meant for the 1960s. It's meant to go on--human condition, with divine inspiration.

[01:06:06.00] SHANNON GREEN: Agreed. What do you like to do for fun?

[01:06:09.04] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: For fun--years ago I liked going up to Mammoth, just walking the mountains, the hills, the falls, the water. Nowadays, my outlet is my poetry. Somebody said, "When do you do that--at night?" And I said, "No--it can take years to really get something to evolve." I enjoy travel. I've been blessed to travel to Mexico to study, a summer. I have been to Europe with my dear friend Sister Therese Denham--Ireland for a week, because that's where my heritage is, and then from Brussels all the way down to Venice the other week. People say, "Did you get to Rome?" And I said, "No, it was a tossup between Rome and Ireland and I chose Ireland for personal reasons." I enjoy good movies. I love theatre. I love classical music. And music has always been a part of my life. I say that I knew music before I was born. My mother was a singer. She could have gone on to be a classical singer. My dad's father, whom I never knew, when he came from Holland to this country, came to sing with the Chicago Symphony and the--the St. Paul Symphony and the Chicago Light Opera--"The Chocolate Soldier" [1908 operetta by Oscar Straus] in particular. I remember seeing his sheet music of that once. Fun--movies--just being with people, being with friends. And oh, trips up the coast--Cambria is a favorite spot where I enjoy going with two special friends, Sister Cece Beresford [Sister Cecile Therese Beresford] and Sister Therese Denham. And of course, my family. I have been blessed to know five generations of my family, from my grandmothers--both grandmothers--down to my two grand-nephews.

[01:08:19.24] SHANNON GREEN: What was one thing about Ireland that you were delighted to see in person?

[01:08:23.11] [Director's comments].

[01:08:32.19] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: When we arrived in--Shannon, and I had heard stories of Limerick--that my--when my great-grandmother was married, it was muddy, rains of Ireland--she carried her white wedding shoes with her along the pathway from the house to the church. I have Irish family dating back to the early 1800s--a cousin did all of this. I just wanted to be a part of it. My mother had been to Ireland during a tour of shrines of Europe with her pastor, and I wanted to be there. I wanted to have my feet on this land, because I've always felt close to my Celtic ancestors--and I did write a poem about that too. But I just wanted to be--the greenery--even saw a rainbow one day when we were going from southern--southeastern up to Dublin. I felt this was part of who I am. And yes, I kissed the Blarney Stone.

[01:09:43.23] SHANNON GREEN: [laughs]. Is there a person living on Earth today that you wish you could meet?

[01:09:50.21] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: I'd like to meet--I will tell you somebody that I admire greatly--young Greta Thunberg [Greta Tintin Eleonora Ernman Thunberg (2003-), Swedish environmental activist]. The young 15-year-old girl, who is so immersed in the need for us to do something positive regarding climate change. She has handicaps--physical handicaps, and yet this young girl is so convinced of what she needs to say. She's addressed the United Nations. She's overcome any hesitancy. And I know from my own experience, I was very shy as a child. She has spoken the truth. Climate change--we've got to change or we're all going to be burned, physically. The Arctic is melting. The animals are dying. The fish no longer having water, or it's polluted. I admire this young woman greatly. I'd like to meet her. Yes.

[01:11:09.26] SHANNON GREEN: I don't think we asked you about the gift shop. So, tell me about the gift shop ministry.

[01:11:15.24] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: When I retired from Daniel Freeman Marina Hospital in 2009, I retired because I knew my mom's days were limited. She--and so, I wanted to spend more time with her. And I did. At that--in those days, early on, the Gift Shop was downstairs--before the remodel. And it's a big--or well, yes, seasonally we would have items for sale. There wasn't a Gift Shop, it was just at Christmas time--the whole area. Then in 2007 or 8, the Gift Shop moved upstairs. And in those early--before it actually opened, my friend Sister Therese Denham and Sister Cecile Therese Beresford asked if I would like to work in the Gift Shop. I said yes. I got a name badge, et cetera, and I love it, to this day. I love meeting the people that come. I love being with our Sisters here at Carondelet Center. Sometimes people come into the shop and just talk. Sometimes people come in just to air any grievances they have. Sometimes they want to come in and I'll say hello and greet them. I play some of my classical music sometimes--not the operas though--but just general background music. And it's a gathering place. The high schools will bring students down--the student government leadership will come and bring the students. People from Tucson, "Circle the City", started by our Sister Adele [Sister Adele O'Sullivan, MD, CSJ]--will come down--or come across. It's a place of gathering. The Mission of the Gift Shop is to bring beauty into the lives of people. There is so much non-beauty, ugliness, hatred, pain--beauty. Sister Therese Denham's mandalas, her "Zentangles"--many forms of art. Denise Ginty, our director of Associates, her ceramics--Mary Schneider's ceramics. Jewelry--Sister Mary Virginia's [??] jewelry. Many different forms of other persons that I could name, but I'll let you come into the shops and see that. It's a place of happiness. It's a place where people can just be. And I always say, "I have two sitting chairs, come and sit." Some years ago, some of our senior Sisters would come in--they would just sit. They may have been having hearing deficiency, but they would just come and just sit, and I would talk. They'd ask what's new--I would tell them. When visitors come, I would say, give them a little background--our philosophy is to bring beauty into the lives of others. Everything in the Gift Shop is created by our Sisters, or Associates, or partners in ministry. There's a woman in Idaho, who after her husband's death did--took up quilting, or continued her quilting. She will send magnificent quilting--quilts, for children and adults, down to one of our Associates, Michelle Swallow. Michelle brings those. Persons like that are partners in ministry. Sister Carol Louise's [Sister Carol Louise Smith] brother's in retirement looked at all the olive trees on their properties on the coast--olive oil from their trees. Everything in the Gift Shop has a story. And as my friends tell me, "Joan you can make a story out of anything." [laughs]. The Gift Shop has become like my third career and it's wonderful. Sister Elizabeth [Wenner?? or Winer??]--her married name--a former member--comes on Mondays. She knows our spirit, and thankfully she takes over the finance, provided I do the invoices correctly. Elizabeth is part of the team. The Gift Shop is Sister Cece Beresford, Therese Denham, Sister Carole Louise, Denise Ginty, and yours truly--and if I left out someone I'm sorry. So the Gift Shop has really become a second part of my life--third phase of ministry.

[01:16:21.08] [Director's comments].

[01:16:49.14] SHANNON GREEN: Was there anything that you reflected on that we didn't ask you about?

[01:16:51.05] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: I don't think so. Brought in my love of music, art, theatre...my family. Creativity. My three--yes.

[01:17:13.19] SHANNON GREEN: Okay. Sit back a little and just--what would you like to--

[01:17:18.13] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: Let me--just a minute.

[01:17:20.24] SHANNON GREEN: Sure--take your time.

[01:17:22.10] [Director's comments].

[01:18:08.09] SISTER JOAN MARIE HAGEN: Among my experiences which broadened my sense and experience of being a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet was a program sponsored by the Federation. The Federation is the gathering of all Sisters of St. Joseph. Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Sisters of St. Joseph of Wheeling--these were under the--bishops of the diocese rather than their own local government--rather than their congregational government. I had the privilege of attending what they called "Life 2"--people who are over fifty--it was some years ago. I remember--and this is held in Boston, at Regis College. It was my first experience of CSJ--of Sisters of St. Joseph beyond the Los Angeles Province. There were Sisters from Canada, from Mexico, from the United States. We were immersed in the

early beginnings of Sisters of St. Joseph. We were immersed--this was right after--soon after Vatican II. The early documents came alive. Sister Julie Harkins [CSJ Boston]--I remember her, one among many. We had classes Saturday through Wednesday, and we learned, we gathered, we interacted. We shared prayer with one another. We really came to know our Sisters that were beyond our own known provinces. Thursdays and Fridays were free days, and I'm happy to tell you I delighted in some of the excursions. We were about five or six of us from this province, and we had a car. One of our experiences was to go to Cahokia [?? St. Louis Missouri??] for an afternoon picnic. I got my feet wet in the Atlantic Ocean. We went to Cape Cod--we saw a bit of the Kennedy Compound. But what's nearest and dearest to me was going to two things. First was the Boston Pops summer concert, outdoors--bring your own chair, your own blanket. A number of us went the first time. I was in heaven. I can still see the river along the side and the orchestra. People knew that I appreciated that so much that there was a spare ticket another time--somebody got sick--and they asked, "Would you like to go to the Boston Pops again?" You know what I said--yes. Another experience was visiting Sleepy Hollow Cemetery outside of Boston. I saw the tombstone of Louisa May Alcott [(1832-1888, American author], whose writings and works influenced me from my high school days. A quote of hers I read somewhere in high school, that I'd like to share with you: "Far away in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up to them, admire them, and try to follow where they lead." I saw her tombstone. And yes, I've seen the film "Little Women" too. Far away in the sunshine is God's grace in my life. I try. I may not succeed in everything, but I try. Visiting--and Thoreau [Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), American author and philosopher]--he's always been somebody very meaningful to me. One of our excursions was to go by Walden Pond--pond, as you good people know, is more of a lake, not a pond. I loved it so much I went back and spent almost a whole day. I brought a book to read, some snacks. I never opened the book. I just sat there, lay there, absorbing God's creation, the trees, the water--and yes, the sounds of people around me. I could have gone to Thoreau's little house, the hut, but I didn't even venture that close. But I was--I knew it was just behind me--short distance. That experience of that Federation brought spirituality and increased appreciation for music, for the people God gifted with music, for nature, for poetry. That--and I say--is interacting, going back to the early documents--they became real for me.

[01:23:02.27] SHANNON GREEN: That's great. I think we'll leave it there.

[01:23:05.04] [Director's comments].

[01:24:23.05] End of interview.

Interview Index

Project: Mount Saint Mary's University--CSJ Oral History Project

Interview Date: 01/21/2020

Interviewee: Sister Joan Marie Hagen

Interviewer: Shannon Green, Director, CSJ Institute, Mount Saint Mary's University; Roman Zenz, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University; Mary Trunk, Instructor, Film and Television, Mount Saint Mary's University

Location: Carondelet Center, Los Angeles, California.

Transcription Date: 02/28/2020

Transcribed By: Nancy Steinmann

[00:00:00.00] [Director's comments].

[00:00:13.24] Introduction. Full name and age.

[00:00:47.27] Early life and family.

[00:03:02.15] Parents. Early religious life. Religious name: Sister Irene Anne Hagen. Sister Barbara Cotton [(1927-2007), formerly Sister St. Thomas Cotton].

[00:07:42.18] Meeting the CSJs. St. Mary's Academy. Sister Josephine [Mother Josephine Feeley (1905-1991)]. Sister Davida Joseph Conlan. Francis Thompson's "Hound of Heaven" [Francis Thompson (1859-1907), English poet].

[00:09:15.02] Early vocation. Parents' reaction to vocation. Mother Rosemary Lyons (1893-1971).

[00:13:59.29] Studying Latin. Sister Augustin [??], Latin teacher. Latin club "The Virgilians". Sister Davida Joseph Conlan.

[00:15:44.17] Postulant and novice years. First meal in community.

[00:17:32.08] Receiving the habit. Sister Davida Joseph Conlan. Receiving teaching degrees. Novice life. Reading spiritual authors: Elizabeth of the Trinity [Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity, O.C.D., born Élisabeth Catez (1880-1906), French Discalced Carmelite author and mystic]; Julian of Norwich [Dame or Mother Julian (1342-after 1416), English anchorite and author of "Revelations of Divine Love"]; biography of Thérèse of Lisieux's [Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, born Marie Françoise-Thérèse Martin (1873-1897), French Catholic Discalced Carmelite nun]. Sin, mortification, denial of self.

[00:20:32.03] Early teaching ministry. Sister Margaret Clare Borchard, (1911-2001), Early Childhood Education teacher. Leo Politi [Atiglio Leoni Politi (1908-1996), American artist and children's book author]. Sister Regina Clare Salazar. Teaching school for 26 years. Teaching at St. John Chrysostom [Inglewood, California]. Working as Eucharistic Minister.

[00:23:32.25] Leaving teaching. Studying clinical pastoral education at Good Samaritan Hospital in Tucson, Arizona. Sister Teresa Marie McIntier.

[00:26:09.21] Working as Chaplain at Daniel Freeman Marina Hospital, Marina Del Rey, California.

[00:27:05.16] Vatican II [Second Vatican Council (1962-1965)]. Changes in Mass. Sisters returning to roots.

[00:30:33.27] Vatican II (cont.). Theological changes. Thérèse of Lisieux. Mother St. John [Jeanne Fontbonne, (1759-1843), founder of CSJs]. Father Medaille [Father Jean-Pierre Médaille [(1610-1669), Jesuit priest, sponsor of CSJs]. Attending 150th anniversary of founding in St. Louis, Missouri. Visiting Cahokia [Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, pre-Colombian Native American city].

[00:33:42.28] Opening and closing of Daniel Freeman hospitals. Working as Manager of Pastoral Care

department. Sister Regina Clare Salazar.

[00:35:39.25] Stories about Daniel Freeman. Sister Regina Clare Salazar. First day at Daniel Freeman. Retirement.

[00:39:13.02] Ministry accompanying people in illness.

[00:41:23.10] Vatican II (cont). Changes in governance and community life. "Group governance". "Clusters". Special interest groups. "The Earthlings" (environmental interest group).

[00:44:38.23] Vatican II (cont). Changing the habit. Story of conversation with woman on a bus when out of habit.

[00:47:46.14] Future of religious life and state of religious life today. Simplifying governance. CSJ Associates. Sister Ilene Mitchell [aka Sister St. Gerard Mitchell]. Mount Saint Mary's University. Anne McElaney-Johnson [MSMU President]. Le Puy, France. Shannon Green [Director, CSJ Institute, MSMU]. Trek of the Seven Sisters (1870). MSMU Busy Person's Retreat.

[00:53:23.02] Advice for Mount students. Three facets of life: head, heart and feet. Book "The Second Mountain" by David Brooks [American journalist].

[00:56:09.25] Sharing physical items. Brochure with collage. Photos from St. Louis, Missouri, 150th CSJ anniversary. Signage from old church in Cahokia, Missouri. Photos of celebration at Daniel Freeman Hospital. Newspaper clipping of 150th anniversary celebration at Doheny campus with photos: Jacqueline Powers Doud [first lay President of MSMC]; Sister Joseph Adele Edwards [(1933-2011)]; Sister Therese Denham; Sister Margaret [??]. Booklet from retreat with writing by Sister Joan Marie Hagen. "Designs" magazine, Spring 2013.

[00:59:31.01] Working on "Designs" magazine.

[01:00:45.03] More physical items. Photo of exhibit at parish church for Vocation Week. Book by Sister Joan Marie Hagen, "When Butterflies Sing".

[01:01:30.08] Poems from "When Butterflies Sing" by Sister Joan Marie Hagen. "Mountaintop". "Question" "The Composer, 1918". "When Butterflies Sing".

[01:04:23.00] Greatest technological advance.

[01:05:05.18] Greatest human progress.

[01:06:06.00] Hobbies and interests. Father singing opera "The Chocolate Soldier" [1908 operetta by Oscar Straus]. Sister Cecile Therese "Cece" Beresford.

[01:08:19.24] Visiting Ireland.

[01:09:43.23] Person she'd like to meet. Greta Thunberg [Greta Tintin Eleonora Ernman Thunberg (2003-), Swedish environmental activist].

[01:11:09.26] CSJ Gift Shop ministry. "Circle the City", Tucson, Arizona. Sister Adele O'Sullivan, MD, CSJ. Sister Therese Denham. Denise Ginty, director of Associates. Mary Schneider. Sister Mary Virginia [??]. Michelle Swallow, Associate. Sister Carol Louise Smith. Sister Elizabeth [Wenner?? or Winer??].

[01:18:08.09] Attending "Life 2", meeting of CSJ Federation in Boston, Massachusetts. Visiting Cape Code, Boston Pops concert, grave of Louisa May Alcott [(1832-1888, American author] at Sleepy Hollow cemetery. Visiting Walden Pond; Henry David Thoreau [(1817-1862), American author and philosopher].

[01:24:23.05] End of interview.

